

Any who don't qualify for loans may be eligible for an individual assistance grant from FEMA to help repair and replace personal property. Other relief programs include crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster, income tax assistance for filing casualty losses and legal advice. Citizens should contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Local governments who were affected by the storms will also receive federal financial help. Eighteen counties can expect federal funds to cover 75 percent of the cost to remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and repair infrastructure. State funds are expected to cover the remaining cost.

The Governor is still awaiting word on the state's request for an agricultural disaster declaration from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. However, farmers who endured damage can immediately apply to two state programs at their county Farm Service offices – the conservation program, which can help farmers with debris removal so they can start planting again, and the livestock program, which will help farmers recoup losses such as livestock and poultry.

Gov. Perdue is deploying state resources in a variety of ways to help. Since Sunday, the Division of Prisons sent 155 minimum security inmates to pick up tornado debris in Bertie, Greene, Hertford and Robeson counties. (The inmate crews are minimum custody. They are screened to be allowed to work in communities and are supervised by correctional staff.) The Forestry Service, DOT crews, State Highway Patrol and other state agencies are helping with volunteers, vehicles, traffic control and other support. Corrections officials and probation officers have volunteered their time with local law enforcement agencies that needed assistance.

The governor urged North Carolinians to support each other and help the storm survivors in whatever ways they can.

The N.C. Disaster Relief Fund can accept monetary donations. The fund is managed by the Governor's office in partnership with the United Way of North Carolina. Donations are tax deductible and 100 percent of donated funds will go to survivors. To donate or get information about the fund, please go to [www.ncdisasterrelief.org](http://www.ncdisasterrelief.org) or mail donations to NC Disaster Relief Fund, Office of the Governor, 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0312.

People who want to volunteer or donate goods can call the Governor's Hotline toll free 1-888-835-9966. The hotline will be staffed daily from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

"North Carolina has taken a beating, but we are going to do what we are so good at doing – recover," said Gov. Perdue. "Together – we will get through this, get our communities made whole, our businesses and people back to work, and we will keep North Carolina moving forward."

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